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# Eisenhower, Aides Gear U.S. Policy to Resources

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Journal-Bulletin Washington Bureau

Washington—The date of Mar. 31, 1953, can now be put down as one of considerable historical importance in this country.

On that day, which was last Tuesday, President Eisenhower and the National Security Council met from 9:30 a.m. until about 6 p.m., with time out only for lunch.

In that meeting the President and the top men of his government drew

up a program in which the total requirements of the United States in this era of cold war and always-threatened hot war were reconciled with the total resources of the United States, both financial and material.

## Never Done Before

So far as is known, this has never been done before in the history of the nation. Certainly it had never been achieved in the period since World War II in which wholly un-

precedented problems have imposed wholly unprecedented requirements on the national resources.

The cataract of new problems and new requirements had come at a rate making them harder and harder to control in terms of what the country "had to do with." To a greater and greater degree, they were escaping control.

Now they have been brought under control. The result is expected to be a much more intelligent and effective central control of the vast body of actions which reflect what is broadly known as United States policy.

## Price Tag Attached

For the first time, now, each policy of the United States quite literally bears a price tag to use in judging whether it should be "bought."

To take an example which may be hypothetical but is wholly valid, there is now before this government a piece of paper which says in effect:

"The proposed policy is to increase the size of the forces of the Republic of Korea by X number of divisions.

"This policy will cost X dollars." And so on for other items: additional equipment for Vietnamese forces fighting Communists in Indo-China; atomic energy; the whole foreign aid program; the Atlantic Alliance; the continental defense of the United States; the whole military scheme of the nation; the Korean war; all the elements that President Eisenhower likes to refer to, paraphrasing George Washington, as a respectable posture of defense for this nation.

The domestic side of the national ledger was worked into the full pattern of requirements, resources, and proposed sums and rates of expenditure.

What sounds like a cold and statistical administrative process was anything but that in the final stage of last Tuesday's NSC meeting.

Tons of papers and millions of brain hours went into the preparatory work. Each department head was brought in to show I people" on his own presentation. Each was briefed on what was upcoming from other departments.

But in the NSC meeting of Tuesday, there were no technicians, no professionals, no staff people present. It was a meeting of the men with the responsibility of doing the work—men contributing (in accord with President Eisenhower's concept of how the National Security Council should work) the benefits of their own intelligence, their own experience, their own personal involvement in the fortunes of the nation.

## Among Those Present

These were men like Secretary of State Dulles, Secretary of Defense Wilson, Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey, Director Allen Dulles of the Central Intelligence Agency, and so on down the list of those who attend NSC meetings either because the law tells them to or because the President wants them there.

Others attended briefly. Val Peterson, civilian defense administrator, spoke his piece and retired. A group of consultants who have been studying the problems of national security spent some time in the meeting, then left.

It was no wonder that on Wednesday, after the fruitful but gruelling nine-hour Tuesday session, President Eisenhower decided to cancel the regular NSC meeting and play golf.

Decisions were taken in the Tuesday meeting which will be unfolding before public view for weeks and months.

Other decisions remain to be made. All the price tags are not fixed forever. All the items have a tag at present, but the monumental difficulties of "cost accounting" an item like the Korean war or the arming of ROK troops mean that some revisions will have to be made. Events themselves will affect the price levels in the national policy inventory.

When it was over, one official said, "I feel better than I had about the future of the republic."